Charlotte's Web

Classroom Calendar

Dear Educator,

Welcome back! We are proud to announce that we have partnered with Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies to bring a live-action version of E.B. White's beloved Newbery Honor novel, *Charlotte's Web*, to the screen. Charlotte will spin her tale in a theatre near you in December 2006. In the meantime, we've got a host of materials and activities to help you and your students get re-acquainted with the best-selling children's paperback of all time. What better way to start off the school year than with a calendar?

We hope the *Charlotte's Web* Classroom Calendar will be a helpful tool throughout the school year. Use the calendar to plan and keep track of special dates during the year. Our educational partners—the 4-H Council, Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), and the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHEE) have offered a few to get you started.

You'll also notice special dates from the United States Postal Service (USPS) throughout the calendar. Like Walden Media, the USPS is committed to education. Therefore, we are proud to partner with the USPS on a number of educational initiatives related to *Charlotte's Web*. This calendar is just the beginning. Watch for our upcoming Activity Guide, Pen Pal program, and special stamps – all coming in January 2006.

Turn the calendar over and you'll find classroom activities for grades K-4 that build background and highlight content from *Charlotte's Web* in advance of the film's release. These engaging activities – which correlate to the national standards found on the next page – were developed by Walden Media to serve as catalysts for learning academic subjects using the novel, *Charlotte's Web*.

Two of the activities, *Salutations!* and *Charlotte's (Word) Webs*, can serve as springboards for national pen pal and vocabulary initiatives launching later this school year. Check out walden.com for more information. While you're there, you can sign up to become a walden.com member. Walden.com membership is available exclusively to educators and those committed to education. Membership grants access to special contests, free screening passes, web chats, and other exclusive content. You can also sign up to receive a *Charlotte's Web* Activity Guide (available in January 2006) and participate in other national initiatives from Walden Media and the USPS.

Walden Media believes that quality entertainment is inherently educational. We believe that by providing children, parents, and educators with a wide range of great entertainment – books, films, and interactive venues – we can capture young imaginations, rekindle curiosity, and demonstrate the rewards of knowledge and virtue.

Best Wishes,
Cary Granat and Micheal Flaherty
Co-Founders, Walden Media

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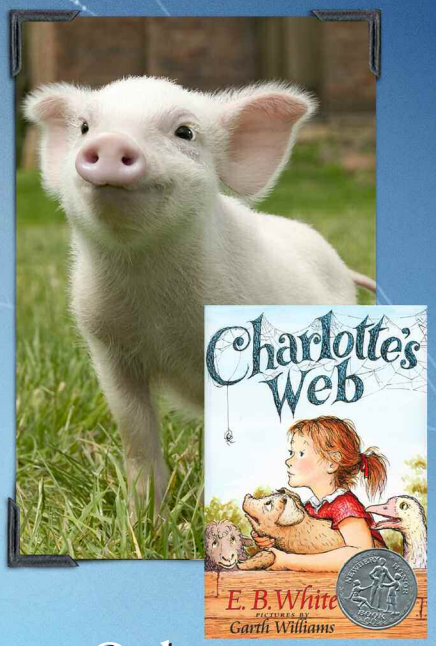
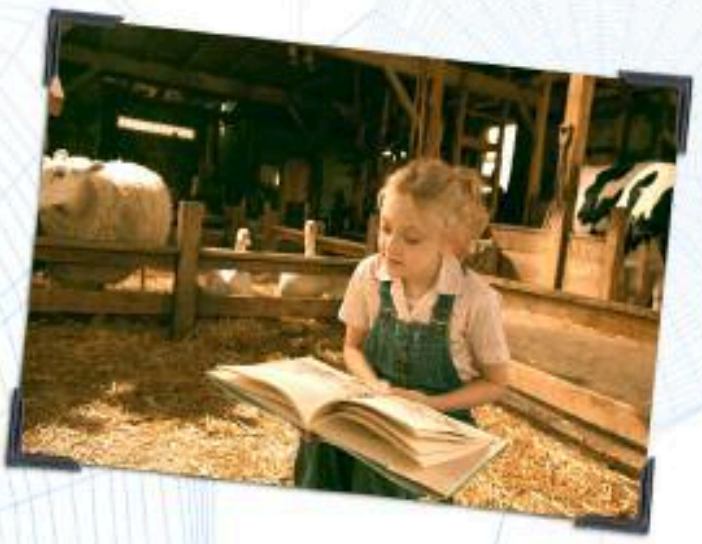


Only in theatres December 2006!

POSTER PANELS FOR GRADES K-4	NATIONAL STANDARDS
1. Salutations! *A writing activity introducing the parts of a letter so students can then participate in "Wilbur's Pen Pals." Walden Media's letter-writing campaign to connect elementary classrooms across the country. Go to www.walden.com for more information on Wilbur's Pen Pals.*	Language Arts: *NCTE/IRA Standard 5: Communication* Strategies Character Education: *Chicago Public Schools Character Education Standard 1: Caring*
2. A Friend is – *A reflective writing activity with sentence stems and quotations from Charlotte's Web to help students consider what it means to be a friend.*	Language Arts: *NCTE/IRA Standard 6: Applying Knowledge* Character Education: *Chicago Public Schools Character Education Standard 7: Traits of Kindness and Helpfulness*
3. Some Spider! *A reference page with a labeling activity to help students understand the body parts of a spider.*	Science: *NSES K-4 Standard C: Characteristics and Life Cycle of Organisms: Organisms and Environments*
4.What's In Zuckerman's Barn? *A drawing and vocabulary activity that asks students to draw Zuckerman's Barn based upon a passage from* Charlotte's Web.	Language Arts: *NCTE/IRA Standard 6: Applying Knowledge* Visual Arts: *CNAEA Standard 6: Making Connections Between Visual Arts and Other Disciplines*
5. Charlotte's (Word) Webs *A vocabulary activity to encourage students to use various resources to search for synonyms and improve their vocabulary.*	Language Arts: *NCTE/IRA Standard 8: Developing Research Skills*

Comments? Suggestions? Questions?
Walden Media would love to hear from you. Please let us know how you felt about this guide and/or any other Walden Media materials you've used in the past. Go to www.walden.com/comments. While you're there, you can sign up for contests, screenings, web chats, and other exclusive content by registering as a walden.com member. Registration is free and available exclusively to educators. Thank you for your support.



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Name _____ Date _____

Salutations!

When Charlotte first meets Wilbur, she greets him by saying "Salutations!" A salutation is also part of a friendly letter. You write the word "Dear" and then the name of the person to whom you're writing.

Learn about all the parts of a letter by writing one! On a separate piece of paper write a letter to a friend following the example below. Let your friend know what you think of *Charlotte's Web*.

1) The Heading
It includes your address and the date. You don't have to use a heading in a letter to a very good friend.

2) The Salutation
It begins with Dear____. The blank is for the name of the person you are writing to. After the person's name you put a comma (,).

3) The Body
This is where you write what you want to say to the person, ask them how they are, what they think about something, what's new, and so on.

4) The Closing
This is where you show that your letter is ending. Some examples of closings are:
- *Your friend,*
- *Sincerely,*
- *Yours truly,*

5) Your signature
You print or write your name here.

(1) 294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108
June 23, 2006

(2) Dear Charlotte,

(3) I'm writing to tell you about a great book that I just read. It's called Charlotte's Web and was written by E.B. White. I really liked this book because...

(4) Your friend,

(5) Wilbur

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Name _____ Date _____

A Friend is –

What do you think makes a good friend?

Read the passages from *Charlotte's Web* below and fill in the blanks to express how each character is a good friend to another.

"Here [Fern] sat quietly during the long afternoons, thinking and listening and watching Wilbur. The sheep soon got to know her and trust her. So did the geese, who lived with the sheep. All the animals trusted her, she was so quiet and friendly."

A friend is _____

_____

"In good time [Wilbur] was to discover that he was mistaken about Charlotte. Underneath her rather bold and cruel exterior, she had a kind heart and was to prove loyal and true to the very end."

A friend is _____

_____

"Day after day the spider waited, head down, for an idea to come to her. Hour by hour she sat motionless, deep in thought. Having promised Wilbur that she would save his life, she was determined to keep her promise."

A friend is _____

_____

"'Tell me a story, Charlotte!' said Wilbur, as he lay waiting for sleep to come. 'Tell me a story!' So Charlotte, although she, too, was tired, did what Wilbur wanted."

A friend is _____

_____

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Name _____ Date _____

Some Spider!

Spiders are amazing! Read about a spider's body parts. Then match the body part to the right label.

Abdomen – The back part of the spider. A spider makes silk to spin webs using glands inside its abdomen.

Cephalothorax – The front part of the spider. This is where its brain and stomach are located.

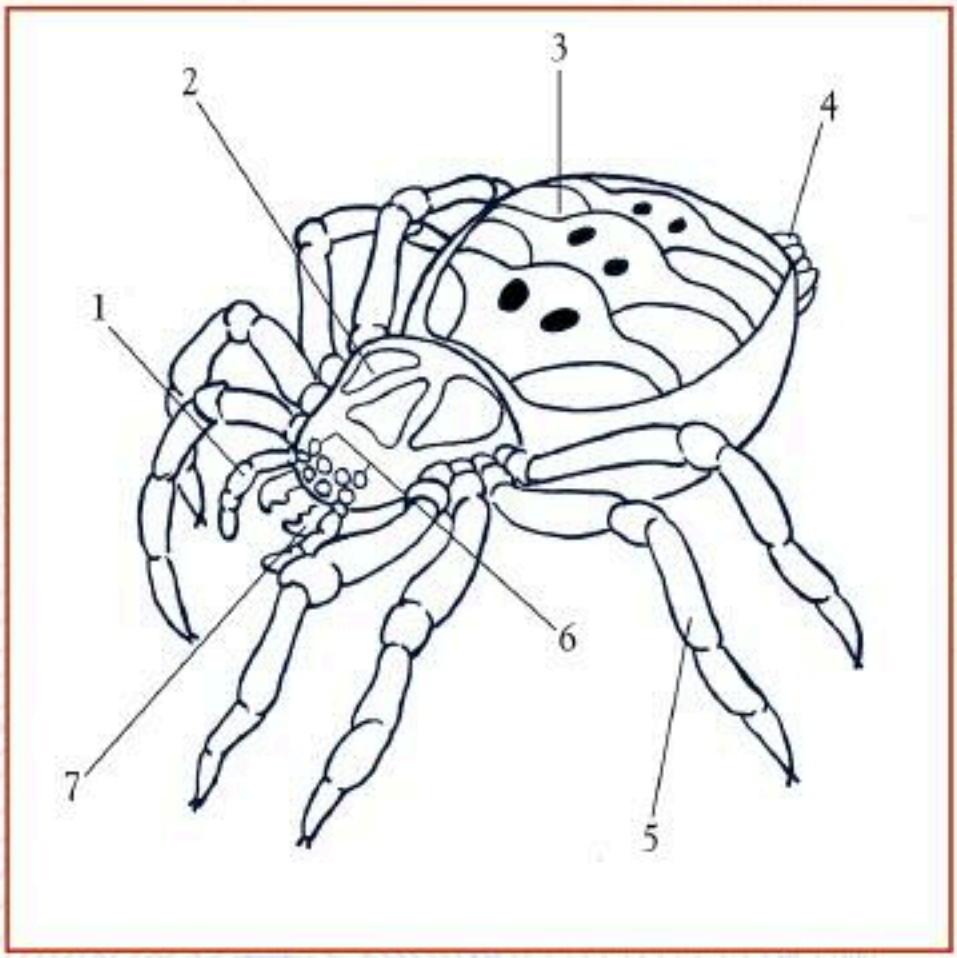
Eyes – Most spiders have 8 eyes, but some have 6, 4 or 2. Cave spiders don't have any eyes!

Fangs – The spider's sharp, hollow teeth.

Legs – All spiders have eight legs. A spider's legs are covered with hairs that it uses as sense organs.

Pedipalps – These are feelers that a spider uses to find food and water.

Spinnerets – Little tubes at the back of the abdomen. A spider gets the silk to spin its web by pushing it out through the spinnerets with its feet.



1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

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Name _____ Date _____

What's in Zuckerman's Barn?

Draw the inside of Zuckerman's barn with the farm equipment and animals found in this passage from *Charlotte's Web*:

"The barn was very large. It was very old... The barn had stalls on the main floor for the work horses, tie-ups on the main floor for the cows, a sheepfold down below for the sheep, a pigpen down below for Wilbur, and it was full of all sorts of things that you find in barns: ladders, grindstones, pitch forks, monkey wrenches, scythes, lawn mowers, snow shovels, ax handles, milk pails, water buckets, empty grain sacks, and rusty rat traps. It was the kind of barn that swallows like to build nests in. It was the kind of barn that children like to play in."

– Chapter 3, "Escape"

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Name _____ Date _____

Charlotte's (Word) Webs

Some Pig

1. Words for Wilbur

Charlotte wrote words in her web that described Wilbur. Look at Charlotte's words in the spider webs below. Then use your thesaurus to find and write down other words that mean the same thing as the words Charlotte wove in her web about Wilbur.

Terrific

_____

_____

Humble

_____

_____

Radiant

_____

_____

2. Words for Other Characters

Here are words from *Charlotte's Web* that describe other characters in the book. Use the lines next to each word to write down other words you find in your thesaurus that have almost the same meaning as the word listed.

Gander (male goose)

Strong _____ _____

Fern

Friendly _____ _____

Charlotte

Loyal _____ _____

Templeton

Crafty _____ _____

3. Words for Best Friends

Ask your teacher for 5 index cards. Then ask parents, teachers, librarians, and other adults you know to tell you about their best friends. Ask each adult to write down a word that describes their best friend on one side of the card, and meaning of the word on the other side. Bring these to school and connect them with string or thread to make a Best Friend Word Web.

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Charlotte's Web

September

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S

October

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						October is National Stamp Collecting Month
National 4H Week (www.4HUSA.org)						
						National Make A Difference Day

November

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week begins						
Children's Book Week begins (www.rif.org)						

December

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S

January

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		Charlotte's Web boxing now available at your local post office. (www.usps.com)				

February

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		RIF's "I Love Animals" writing contest begins today (www.rif.org)		National KIND Teacher Award application deadline (www.nahee.org)		

March

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			National Pig Day			

April

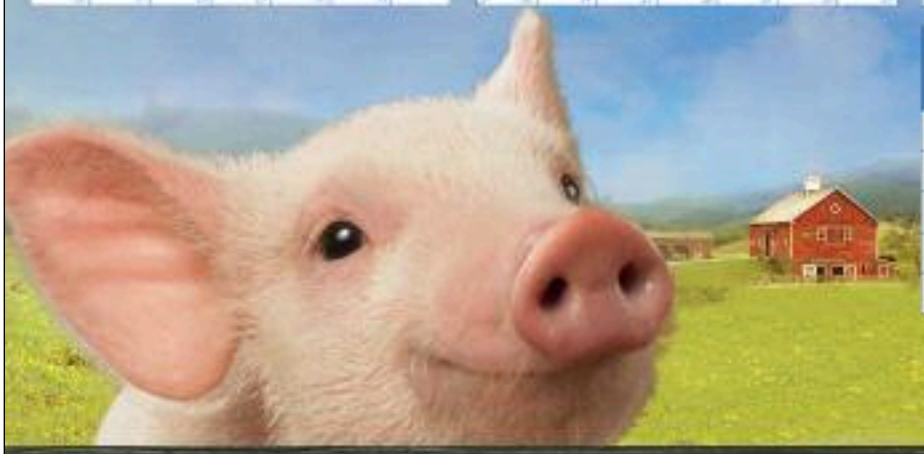
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						April is National Card and Letter Writing Month
Animal Cruelty Awareness Week begins	National Volunteer Week					

May

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
Be Kind To Animals Week						
National Reading Is Fun Week/National RIF Week begins (www.rif.org)						

June

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	RIF's Summer Reading Contest begins (www.rif.org)					



This Classroom Calendar has been developed by Walden Media with additional dates provided by the following organizations:

www.rif.org · www.4HUSA.org · www.nahee.org · www.kindnews.org · www.usps.com

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